
5. Finding SIPP Information

Both the data collected in SIPP and supporting documentation are available in various forms. They include published estimates based on those data, microdata in several formats, documentation for each of the microdata files, and more general documentation about methodological issues in SIPP. The latter includes the *SIPP Quality Profile*, a series of working papers distributed by the Census Bureau, articles published in academic journals, and conference proceedings. This chapter discusses SIPP published estimates, briefly describes the data files and supporting documentation, and provides information on how to obtain them.

Published Estimates from SIPP

Published estimates from SIPP data are useful to data analysts in a number of ways. First, Census Bureau publications may already contain the estimates needed for the research project at hand, thus saving users the need to generate those estimates themselves. Second, published estimates can often provide a useful cross-check for closely related estimates prepared by analysts.

Published estimates are based on the Census Bureau's internal data files, and it is often impossible to replicate published estimates exactly. That is because the internal files have not been subjected to topcoding and other data-suppression techniques that are necessary to protect confidentiality on the public use microdata files. Chapter 4 provides information on data editing and imputation.

The Census Bureau's P-70 series of publications is the primary source for published estimates from SIPP. Table 5-1 displays the titles and publication numbers of reports in the series that are currently available from the Census Bureau. Copies of those reports can be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. For telephone orders, users can call (202) 783-3238, or they can fax orders to (202) 783-3236. An updated list of P-70 series reports can be obtained from the SIPP Web site (<http://www.bls.census.gov/sipp/>); each of the reports contains a phone number the reader can call for further information or clarification. Users can reach the population division staff for demographics questions at (301) 457-2422, or they can call the SIPP information phone number: (301) 457-3242.

SIPP Public Use Microdata Files

Following data collection as described in Chapter 2 and postcollection processing as described in Chapter 4, the Census Bureau prepares data files in formats compatible with the most common methods of analysis. Those microdata are available in several file formats and can be obtained on

Table 5-1. Publications in the P-70 Series

Publication Number	Title
P-70-1	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Third Quarter 1983
P-70-2	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Fourth Quarter, 1983
P-70-3	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. First Quarter, 1984
P-70-4	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Second Quarter, 1984
P-70-5	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Third Quarter, 1984
P-70-6	Economic Characteristics of Households in the U.S. Fourth Quarter, 1984
P-70-7	Household Wealth and Asset Ownership, 1984
P-70-8	Disability, Functional Limitations, and Health Insurance Coverage: 1984-1985
P-70-9	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 1984-1985
P-70-10	Male-Female Differences in Work Experience, Occupation, and Earnings: 1984
P-70-11	What's It Worth? Educational Background and Economic Status: Spring 1984
P-70-12	Pensions: Workers Coverage and Retirement Income, 1984
P-70-13	Who's Helping Out? Support Network Among American Families
P-70-14	Characteristics of Persons Receiving Benefits from Major Assistance Programs
P-70-15-RD-1	Transitions in Income and Poverty Status: 1984-1985
P-70-16-RD-2	Spells of Job Search and Layoff...and Their Outcomes
P-70-17	Health Insurance Coverage, 1986-1988
P-70-18	Transitions in Income and Poverty Status: 1985-1986
P-70-19	The Need for Personal Assistance with Everyday Activities: Recipients and Caregivers
P-70-20	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Winter 1986-1987
P-70-21	What's It Worth? Educational Background and Economic Status: Spring 1987
P-70-22	Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1988
P-70-23	Family Disruption and Economic Hardship: The Short-Run Picture for Children
P-70-24	Transitions in Income and Poverty Status: 1987-1988
P-70-25	Pensions: Worker Coverage and Retirement Benefits, 1987
P-70-26	Extended Measures of Well-Being: 1984
P-70-27	Job Creation During Late 1980's: Dynamic Aspects of Employment Growth
P-70-28	Who's Helping Out? Support Network Among American Families
P-70-29	Health Insurance Coverage: 1987 to 1990
P-70-30	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Fall 1988
P-70-31	Characteristics of Recipients and the Dynamics of Program Participation: 1987-1988
P-70-32	What's It Worth? Educational Background and Economic Status: Spring 1990
P-70-33	Americans with Disabilities: 1991-1992
P-70-34	Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1991
P-70-35	Monitoring the Economic Health of American Households: Average Monthly Estimates of Income, Labor Force Activity, Program Participation and Health Insurance, First Quarter 1984 to Third Quarter 1991
P-70-36	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: Fall 1991
P-70-37	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Health Insurance, 1990-1992
P-70-38	The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991
P-70-39	Dollars for Scholars: Postsecondary Costs and Financing, 1990-1991
P-70-40	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Labor Force and Income: 1990-1992
P-70-41	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation: 1990-1992

(table continues)

Table 5-1. Publications in the P-70 Series (*continued*)

Publication Number	Title
P-70-42	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty: 1990
P-70-43	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Health Insurance: 1991-1993
P-70-44	The Effect of Health Insurance Coverage on Doctor and Hospital Visits: 1990-1992
P-70-45	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty: 1991-1993
P-70-46	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation: 1991-1993
P-70-47	Asset Ownership of Households: 1993
P-70-48	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Labor Force: 1991-1993
P-70-49	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Income: 1991-1992
P-70-50	Beyond Poverty, Extended Measures of Well-Being: 1992
P-70-51	What's It Worth? Field of Training and Economic Status: 1993
P-70-52	What Does it Cost to Mind Our Preschoolers?
P-70-53	Who's Minding Our Preschoolers?
P-70-54	Who Loses Coverage and for How Long?
P-70-55	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty: 1992-1993, Who Stays Poor? Who Doesn't?
P-70-56	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Income, 1992-1993, Moving Up and Down the Income Ladder
P-70-57	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Labor Force, 1992-1993—A Perspective on Low-Wage Workers
P-70-58	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation, 1992-1993—Who Gets Assistance?
P-70-59	My Daddy Takes Care of Me! Fathers as Care Providers
P-70-60	Financing the Future: Postsecondary Students, Costs, and Financial Aid
P-70-61	Americans with Disabilities: 1994-95
P-70-62	Who's Minding Our Preschoolers – Fall 1994 Update
P-70-63	Dynamics of Economic Well Being: Poverty, 1993-94
P-70-64	Who Loses Coverage, and For How Long?
P-70-65	Moving Up and Down the Income Ladder
P-70-66	Seasonality of Moves and Duration of Residence
P-70-67	Extended Measures of Well-Being: Meeting Basic Needs
P-70-69	Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation, Who Gets Assistance?
P-70-70	Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements
P-70-71	Household Net Worth and Asset Ownership, 1995
P-70-73	Americans With Disabilities: 1997

a variety of media. The following sections describe the file formats currently in use, each of which is used for somewhat different SIPP data. Information is also provided about how to obtain those data and supporting documentation.

Formats and Contents of SIPP Microdata Files

SIPP public use microdata are available in four types of files: core wave files, topical module files, and full and partial panel files. The files vary in content and structure. Analysts should be aware that their need for files depends on their particular application.

Data files are available through the Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 457-4100. Users can also extract data files by using on-line data access tools, as described later in this chapter in “Sources for Obtaining SIPP Microdata.”

Core Wave Files

Core wave files contain the core labor force, income, household and family composition, and program participation data from one wave of interviews. The core wave files are currently available in *person-month* format, containing, for every person who was a member of a SIPP household for at least 1 month during the 4-month reference period for that wave, one record for each month that person was in-sample.¹ In other words, a person who was in-sample for all 4 reference months has four records—one for each reference month. A person who was in-sample for only 1 month would have just one record. The core wave files were designed to be used for cross-sectional analyses. Analysts who do not wish to wait for the release of certain files can link one or more core wave files to make their own longitudinal files. Chapter 13 discusses linking files. Table 5-2 illustrates the structure of the person-month format for core wave files.

The core wave files are the only source of monthly cross-sectional weights. When using data drawn from the full panel files for cross-sectional analyses, users must merge weights from the core wave files. Chapter 8 explains how to select and merge weights.

Topical Module Files

Each topical module file contains selected core information along with the data from the topical module administered in a given wave. As described in Chapter 2, different topical modules are administered in each wave of a SIPP panel. Table 5-3 shows which topical modules were administered for each wave of each SIPP panel. Table 5-4 lists topical areas along with the panels and waves in which they were administered. Topical module files are issued in person-record format; there is one record for each person who was a member of a SIPP household at the time of the interview for that wave. Table 5-5 illustrates the structure of a topical module file. For the topical modules, there are people for whom there is no topical information. Chapter 2 describes how the interviews are conducted and how topical module information is collected; Chapter 4 explains how missing data are handled in the files. In the 1996 Panel, the month that determines the universe for the topical module files changed to month 4.

¹ Prior to the 1990 Panel, the Census Bureau issued core wave files in a format with a single record for each person. Those files are described in earlier editions of the *SIPP Users' Guide*.

Table 5-2. Structure of the Person-Month Format Core Wave Files

SUID^a	Person	Month	Household Vars	Family Vars	Subfamily Vars	Sample Status	Other Person Vars
1	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
	2	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		4	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
	3	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		4				Yes	
2	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
	2	1	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
3	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	
	2	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
		4	Missing	Missing	Missing	No	Missing
4	1	1				Yes	
		2				Yes	
		3				Yes	
		4				Yes	

^a Sample unit ID number. Chapter 4 provides more information about identification numbers in SIPP.

Table 5-3. Topical Modules, by Panel and Wave

Wave	Subject Areas
1996 Panel	
1	Reciprocity History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid
4	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, Work Schedule, Child Care, Disability Questions
5	School Enrollment and Financing, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability—Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability—Children, Employer-Provided Health Benefits
6	Children's Well-Being, Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Adults, Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Children, Work-Related Expenses, Child Support Paid
7	Annual Income and Retirement Account, Taxes, Retirement and Pension Plan Coverage; Home Health Care
8	Adult Well-Being, Welfare Reform
9	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid
10	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, Work Schedule, Child Care
11	Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability—Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability—Children
12	Assets, Liabilities, and Eligibility; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Adults; Medical Expenses/Utilization of Health Care—Children; Work-Related Expenses; Child Support Paid; Children's Well-Being
1993 Panel	
1	Reciprocity History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability—Adults, Utilization of Health Care Services—Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability—Children, Utilization of Health Care Services—Children, Children's Well-Being
7	Assets and Liabilities; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles; Medical Expenses and Work Disability
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
9	Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Child Support Agreements, Child Care, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Work Schedule, Children's Well-Being, Basic Needs

(table continues)

Table 5-3. Topical Modules, by Panel and Wave (*continued*)

Wave	Subject Areas
1992 Panel	
1	Reciprocity History, Employment History
2	Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Extended Measures of Well-Being (Consumer Durables, Living Conditions, Basic Needs)
4	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
7	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
9	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability—Adults, Utilization of Health Care Services—Adults, Functional Limitations and Disability—Children, Utilization of Health Care Services—Children, Children's Well-Being
10	No Topical Modules
1991 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Extended Measures of Well-Being (Consumer Durables, Living Conditions, Basic Needs)
7	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
1990 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Time Spent Outside Work Force, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Functional Limitations and Disability, Utilization of Health Care Services
7	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing

(table continues)

Table 5-3. Topical Modules, by Panel and Wave (*continued*)

Wave	Subject Areas
1989 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Home Health Care, Disability Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Functional Activities
4	The 1989 Panel was terminated following Wave 3.
1988 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Family Background, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services
4	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Home Health Care, Disability Status of Children, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Functional Activities
7	No Wave 7
8	No Wave 8
1987 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciprocity History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Family Background, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Work-Related Expenses, Shelter Costs/Energy Usage
4	Assets and Liabilities, Real Estate Properties and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Work Schedule, Child Care, Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services
7	Selected Financial Assets; Medical Expenses and Work Disability; Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles
8	No Wave 8

(table continues)

Table 5-3. Topical Modules, by Panel and Wave (continued)

Wave	Subject Areas
1986 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	Reciency History, Employment History, Work Disability History, Education and Training History, Family Background, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
3	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Job Offers, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children
4	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Work-Related Expenses, Shelter Costs/Energy Usage
7	Assets and Liabilities, Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	No Wave 8
1985 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	No Topical Modules
3	Assets and Liabilities, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
4	Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work-Related Expenses, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
5	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
6	Child Care Arrangements/Child Support Agreements, Support for Nonhousehold Members, Job Offers, Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services, Long-Term Care, Disability Status of Children
7	Assets and Liabilities, Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing
1984 Panel	
1	No Topical Modules
2	No Topical Modules
3	Education and Work History, Health and Disability
4	Assets and Liabilities; Retirement and Pension Coverage; Housing Costs, Conditions, and Energy Usage
5	Child Care, Welfare History and Child Support, Reasons for Not Working/Reservation Wage, Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work-Related Expenses
6	Earnings and Benefits, Property Income and Taxes, Education and Training
7	Assets and Liabilities, Pension Plan Coverage, Real Estate Property and Vehicles
8	Support for Nonhousehold Members/Work-Related Expenses, Marital History, Migration History, Fertility History, Household Relationships
9	Annual Income and Retirement Accounts, Taxes, School Enrollment and Financing

Table 5-4. Topical Modules, by Subject

Subject Areas	Panel and Wave^a
Marital History	84-8, 85-4, 86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2
Fertility History	84-8, 85-4, 86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2
Household Relationships	84-8, 85-4, 86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2
Migration History	84-8, 85-4, 86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2
Family Background	86-2, 87-2, 88-2
Annual Income and Retirement Accounts	84-9, 85-5, 85-8, 86-5, 87-5, 88-5, 90-5, 90-8, 91-5, 91-8, 92-5, 92-8, 93-5, 93-8, 96-4, 96-7, 96-10
Taxes	84-9, 85-5, 85-8, 86-5, 87-5, 88-5, 90-5, 90-8, 91-5, 91-8, 92-5, 92-8, 93-5, 93-8, 96-4, 96-7, 96-10
Assets and Liabilities	84-4, 84-7, 85-3, 85-7, 86-4, 86-7, 87-4, 90-4, 91-7, 92-4, 93-7, 96-3, 96-6, 96-9, 96-12
Selected Financial Assets	87-7, 88-4, 90-7, 91-4, 92-7, 93-4
Retirement Expectations and Pension Plan Coverage	84-4, 85-7, 86-4, 86-7, 87-4, 90-4, 91-7, 92-4, 93-9, 96-7
Pension Plan Coverage	84-7, 86-8
Earnings and Benefits	84-6
Reciprocity History	86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-1, 93-1, 96-1
Child Support Agreements	85-6, 86-3, 86-6, 87-3, 87-6, 88-3, 88-6, 89-3, 90-3, 90-6, 91-3, 92-6, 92-9, 93-3, 93-6, 93-9, 96-5, 96-11
Child Support Paid	96-3, 96-6, 96-9, 96-12
Child Care	84-5, 85-6, 86-3, 86-6, 87-3, 87-6, 88-3, 88-6, 89-3, 90-3, 90-6, 91-3, 92-6, 92-9, 93-3, 93-6, 93-9, 96-4, 96-10
Support for Nonhousehold Members	84-3, 84-5, 84-8, 85-4, 85-6, 86-3, 86-6, 87-3, 87-6, 88-3, 88-6, 90-3, 90-6, 91-3, 92-6, 92-9, 93-3, 93-6, 93-9, 96-5
Welfare History and Child Support	84-5
Real Estate Property and Vehicles	84-7, 85-3, 85-7, 86-4, 86-7, 87-4, 90-4, 91-7, 92-4, 93-7
Real Estate, Shelter Costs, Dependent Care, and Vehicles	87-7, 88-4, 90-7, 91-4, 92-7, 93-4, 93-7
Shelter Costs/Energy Usage	86-6, 87-3
Property Income and Taxes	84-6
Housing Costs, Conditions, and Energy Usage	84-4
Employment History	86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-1, 93-1, 96-1
Work—Disability History	86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2
Work Schedule	87-6, 88-3, 88-6, 89-3, 90-3, 91-3, 92-6, 92-9, 93-3, 93-6, 93-9, 96-4, 96-10
Work-Related Expenses	84-5, 84-8, 85-4, 86-6, 87-3, 96-3, 96-6, 96-9, 96-12
Reasons for not Working/Reservation Wage	84-5
Time Spent Outside Work Force	90-6
Job Offers	85-6, 86-3
Home-Based Self-Employment/Size of Firm	92-6, 93-3
Education and Training History	86-2, 87-2, 88-2, 89-2, 90-2, 91-2, 92-2, 93-2, 96-2
Education and Work History	84-3
School Enrollment and Financing	84-9, 85-5, 85-8, 86-5, 87-5, 88-5, 90-5, 90-8, 91-5, 91-8, 92-5, 92-8, 93-5, 93-8, 96-5
Education and Training	84-6
Functional Limitations and Disability	90-3, 90-6, 91-3, 92-6, 93-3

(table continues)

Table 5-4. Topical Modules, by Subject (*continued*)

Subject Areas	Panel and Wave^a
Functional Limitations and Disability—Adults	92-9, 93-6, 96-5, 96-11
Functional Limitations and Disability—Children	92-9, 93-6, 96-5, 96-11
Disability Status of Children	85-6, 86-3, 87-6, 88-3, 88-6, 89-3
Functional Activities	88-6, 89-3
Medical Expenses and Work Disability	87-7, 88-4, 90-7, 91-4, 92-7, 93-4, 93-7
Utilization of Health Care Services	90-3, 90-6, 91-3, 92-6, 93-3
Utilization of Health Care Services—Adults	92-9, 93-6, 96-5, 96-12
Utilization of Health Care Services—Children	92-9, 93-6, 96-5, 96-12
Health Status and Utilization of Health Care Services	85-6, 86-3, 87-6, 88-3, 88-6, 89-3
Long-Term Care	85-6, 86-3, 87-6, 88-3
Home Health Care	88-6, 89-3
Health and Disability	84-3
Employer-Provided Health Benefits	96-5
Disability Questions	96-4
Extended Measure of Well-Being (Consumer Durables, Living Conditions, Basic Needs)	91-6, 92-3
Adult Well-Being	96-8
Basic Needs	93-9
Welfare Reform	96-8
Children's Well-Being	92-9, 93-6, 93-9, 96-6, 96-11

^a The number preceding the hyphen indicates the year of the panel, and the number following the hyphen indicates the wave number. Thus, 84-8 denotes that the information was collected in the 1984 Panel, during Wave 8.

Table 5-5. Structure of Topical Module Microdata File

SUID^a	Person	Interview Status in Interview Month	Core Vars	Topical Module Vars
1	1	Yes		
	2	Yes		
	3	No	Missing	Missing
	4	Yes		
	5	No	Missing	Missing
2	1	Yes		
	2	Yes		
3	1	Yes		
4	1	Yes		
	2	No	Missing	Missing
	3	Yes		
5	1	Yes		
	2	Yes		
	3	Yes		

^a Sample unit ID number. Chapter 4 provides more information about identification numbers in SIPP.

Full and Partial Panel Files

At the conclusion of each panel, the Census Bureau creates a single full panel file containing all data from the core wave files for every person who was a member of the SIPP sample at any time during the life of that panel.² To date, the full panel files have been issued in a format that contains one record for each person. That record contains either data or missing value codes for most core questionnaire items for every month of the panel.³ Chapter 3 discusses survey content, including information about the content of the core questionnaire. At the time that this Guide was written, full panel files had been issued for all SIPP panels prior to the 1996 Panel. Because of the extended (4-year) duration of the 1996 Panel, the Census Bureau is modifying its procedures for releasing information for the full panel.

Sources for Obtaining SIPP Microdata

SIPP microdata files can be obtained from several sources. All public use microdata files can be obtained on magnetic media or CD-ROM directly from the Census Bureau. When microdata files are obtained directly from the Census Bureau, users are provided with a full set of documentation for those files, including all currently available applicable User Notes (discussed later in this chapter). Users can also be placed on a distribution list to receive information from the Census Bureau regarding any errors found in, or revisions made to, those files, by contacting the Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 457-4100.

In addition, analysts affiliated with institutions that are members of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) can obtain all SIPP microdata from that source. Users should contact the ICPSR representative at their institutions for more information. Finally, SIPP data and documentation, as released by the Census Bureau, are not copyrighted. The data files and supporting documentation can therefore be freely copied and distributed to other users.⁴

There is another source of SIPP data that can be quite useful for simple exploratory work. SIPP microdata are available on-line at the Census Bureau's Web site (<http://www.census.gov/>) and from the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>). Those Internet sites offer two data access tools—Surveys-on-Call, which is part of the Data Extraction System (DES), and FERRET, which is part of the new Census Bureau Data Access and Dissemination System (DADS).

Surveys-on-Call provides access to SIPP longitudinal files for the 1988 through 1993 Panels and for wave and topical module files for the 1990 through 1993 Panels. Surveys-on-Call allows users to define microdata extracts from the SIPP public use microdata files. Users can choose

² Because of the volume of data collected in the 1996 Panel, that procedure may not occur for the 1996 full panel file.

³ In the case of items that are asked only once per interview rather than for each month of the 4-month reference period, there is a field for each interview rather than for each month.

⁴ This provision pertains only to materials authored and distributed by the Census Bureau or other federal agencies. It does not imply any rights to copy and distribute material published by any other party.

data for selected years, wave files, core files, topical module files, or longitudinal files. They can also select variables of interest and use variables as selection criteria. For example, an analyst might want to extract reciprocity information for females between the ages of 18 and 25 from Wave 5 of the 1993 Panel. Once defined, analysts can download those extracts to their own computers for analysis. Surveys-on-Call creates microdata extracts from the SIPP public use files only. It does not include any options for performing analyses on-line. On-line help is available at each step of the data-extraction process. Users are encouraged to explore the capabilities of this system by creating several small extracts.

SIPP data available on the Federal Electronic Research Review and Extraction Tool (FERRET) include files from the 1996 Panel and the longitudinal files from the 1992 and 1993 Panels. FERRET is the product of a joint project of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is a system enabling users to access and manipulate large demographic and economic data sets on-line. FERRET is designed to aid not only sophisticated researchers, but also reporters, students, government policy makers, and amateur statisticians. SIPP is one of several surveys available through FERRET.⁵

Other Sources of Information About SIPP

Other sources of information about SIPP include the *SIPP Quality Profile*, User Notes, and SIPP working papers. The SIPP Web site includes an extensive bibliography that provides references to SIPP-related research and documentation, data dictionaries, variable metadata documenting all information relevant to variables that appear on the public use microdata files, and a computer-based tutorial that introduces users to methods and concepts needed to use SIPP data.

SIPP Quality Profile

The *SIPP Quality Profile* documents data quality issues related to SIPP. It summarizes what is known about the sources and magnitude of errors in estimates based on SIPP. The *SIPP Quality Profile* covers both sampling and nonsampling error, with an emphasis on nonsampling error. There have been three editions of the *SIPP Quality Profile*. The third edition, by Kalton, Winglee, & Jabine (U.S. Census Bureau, 1998a), updates the two previous editions, by King, Petroni, & Singh (U.S. Census Bureau, 1987) and Jabine, King, & Petroni (U.S. Census Bureau, 1990). The third edition of the *SIPP Quality Profile* is available on-line at the SIPP Web site.

⁵ Among the current and future topics accessible through FERRET are employment, health care, education, race and ethnicity, health insurance, housing, income and poverty, aging, marriage, and the family. FERRET allows users to quickly locate current and historical information from survey sources, get tabulations for specific information they need, make comparisons between different data sets, create simple tables, and download large amounts of data to desktop and larger computers for custom reports.

SIPP User Notes

The SIPP User Notes, issued periodically by the Census Bureau, contain updated information for specific microdata files. The User Notes include corrections to the data dictionaries, announcements of errors found in the public use data files after their release, and recommended corrections for those data errors. Analysts obtaining SIPP microdata files directly from the Census Bureau will receive all User Notes that have been issued for those files at the time of purchase. Users who obtained files from other sources should contact the Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 457-4100, to request the User Notes that have been issued for the data they plan to use. User Notes are also available at the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>).

Microdata Technical Documentation

Users purchasing SIPP microdata files directly from the Census Bureau receive, along with the data files, a package of technical documentation. The technical documentation includes:

- A data dictionary, containing information about the file structure and the names, locations, and contents of all variables. The printed version of the data dictionary also includes information about the structure of the machine-readable data dictionary supplied with each file.
- A source and accuracy statement, containing detailed information about sample weights and computation of standard errors using Census Bureau generalized variance procedures. This information is specific to the panel, wave, and content of the data file. For example, the topical module file and the core wave file for Wave 7 of the 1990 Panel have different source and accuracy statements.
- A copy of the questionnaire screens and program code used to collect the information contained in the microdata file for the computer-assisted interviews for the 1996 Panel, which is available from the SIPP Web site (Chapter 2).

SIPP Working Papers

The Census Bureau publishes a series of SIPP working papers. Those papers are written by authors inside the Census Bureau and by outside analysts. The series includes research papers based on SIPP data or related to the SIPP program. SIPP working papers can be obtained from the SIPP Web site (<http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>) or ordered from the Customer Services Branch, Administrative and Customer Services Division, at (301) 457-4100.

Bibliography

A bibliography of works related to SIPP is available on-line from the SIPP Web site. This relatively comprehensive bibliography contains references for journal articles, research papers, and working papers that use SIPP data or that discuss the SIPP survey.

Variable Metadata

Variable metadata, available in the data dictionary, provide a complete characterization of a variable's content. Variable metadata include all information relevant to variables that appear in the SIPP public use microdata files, including the variable name, a description of the variable, the concept label, data type (binary or character), suggested weight variable when applicable, descriptions of all possible values, and other data when applicable. A variable summary will be included for each public use variable. The summary identifies all edits, recodes, and imputations that affect the final edited output variable.

What's Available from the Survey of Income and Program Participation?

What's Available from the Survey of Income and Program Participation?, published by the Census Bureau, provides a complete directory of available SIPP data and publications. The directory lists materials available in both print and electronic formats. *What's Available* includes a listing of SIPP working papers, User Notes, public use microdata files, P-70 series population reports, and compilations of relevant papers published in the proceedings from the annual meetings of the American Statistical Association (ASA). *What's Available from the Survey of Income and Program Participation?* is updated periodically. Users can review the most recent edition at the Census Bureau Web site.

Table 5-6 lists telephone numbers to call for obtaining additional information about specific aspects of SIPP.

**Table 5-6. Telephone Numbers for Information About
Specific Aspects of SIPP**

Subject Fields	Telephone Number
Adult well-being	(301) 457-2464
Aging population	(301) 457-2738
Child care	(301) 457-2416
Child well-being	(301) 457-2465
Education	(301) 457-2464
Fertility	(301) 457-2449
Health insurance	(301) 457-3215
Income	(301) 457-3212
Labor force, employment, and earnings	(301) 457-3229
Marriage and family	(301) 457-2416
Migration	(301) 457-2454
Pensions	(301) 457-3229
Poverty	(301) 457-3215
Wealth (assets)	(301) 457-3229
Women	(301) 457-2378
Methodology	Telephone Number
Data collection procedures	(301) 457-3819
Questionnaire design	(301) 457-3819
Estimation and weighting	(301) 457-4192
Nonsampling and sampling errors	(301) 457-4192
Survey design	(301) 457-4192